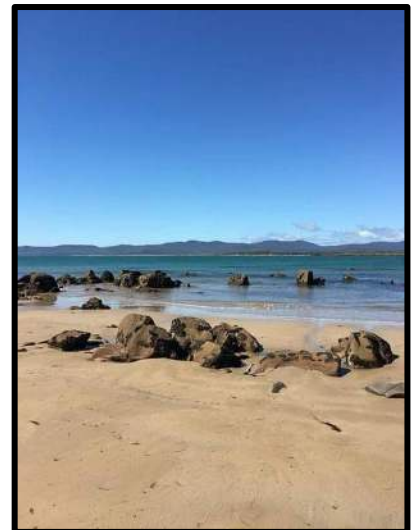




Parish Profile 2023



North West Tasmania
Latrobe
Port Sorell
Newground

His name will be the
hope of all the
world

Matthew 12:21



Parish Profile 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

Bridge of Hope is a Parish on the North West Coast of Tasmania with three distinct congregations, each located within three distinct communities (Latrobe, Port Sorell and Newground). Our current Rector will retire at the end of 2023 after leading us through three years of biblical equipping to deepen our spiritual maturity, strengthen our corporate prayer life and encourage us to reach our community with the gospel. This was amid the many challenges of COVID 19, including a mainly older congregation and services being held at one Centre undertaken in the Community Room in an Aged Care Facility. We are looking for a minister to assist us in our endeavour to reach out to families, young people and the wider community with the love of Christ in our fast-growing municipality.

2. OUR PARISH VISION



Under God we would like to see a flourishing, renewed congregation reaching families in Latrobe, a vibrant congregation in Port Sorell reaching out to all ages, with both gathering weekly and the monthly congregation at Newground engaging meaningfully with the local community with local leadership.

3. ABOUT OUR PARISH

The Bridge of Hope Parish is in the Latrobe Municipality which has a total population of 12,420. (2021 Census) The two main towns are Latrobe and Port Sorell with populations of 4,456 and 5,199 respectively. The remainder of the population live in the surrounding rural and agricultural areas. Newground Church is situated between Port Sorell and Latrobe. Latrobe as a municipality is one of Tasmania's fastest growing areas. It is blessed with pristine beaches, National Park, a rich, productive vegetable growing industry, a Hospital, five schools, and strong local communities.



4. OUR THREE CENTRES

PORT SORELL

Current Ministries and Activities

Worship

Port Sorell congregation currently meet in the newly upgraded Banksia Centre which may become their permanent meeting place. The weekly Sunday



worship service is held at 9.30am. Worship is of high importance with attendance normally around 30 people. Services could be described as evangelical with two communions per month. There is a high emphasis on preaching that relates directly to the teachings of Scripture.

Services are enhanced by music with a mix of modern songs and traditional hymns. There are currently three musicians and digital resources are also used.

Services are often followed by fellowship over morning tea at a local café. Currently services are being held in rooms at the Banksia Centre and there has been strong support for this to continue.



Prayer

Prayer is recognised as significant in all of church life and is encouraged in a variety of ways, especially the fortnightly Zoom prayer meeting. A team of people lead intercessions in Sunday services on a roster basis.

Bible Study and Growth Group

A weekly KYB Bible study has been held in the church for more than 20 years and continues to attract new people with 9 people currently attending.



The Minister leads a parish growth group at his home in Port Sorell with about 12 participants. A daily bible reading programme was introduced this year. Regular one to one Bible reading takes place.

Craft Group

A fortnightly craft group is held with the focus on providing various items to those in need both locally and overseas. Items include rugs, toys, clothing etc.

Social Activities and Community Outreach

Involvement in the community has been a strength of the congregation in the past and contributed to the steady growth of the church. Unfortunately, these activities have been severely impacted by Covid restrictions.

We have supported the school chaplain and weekly breakfast club at the local school. There is also support for Gran's Van, (a ministry to the homeless) and Anglicare Winter Appeal.

Members also support CMS Link missionaries Bryan and Sarah Haro.

The church is asked to participate in Anzac and Remembrance Day Services in the community and at Rubicon Grove.

Lunches after church at a local venue have recommenced this year and are an opportunity to fellowship and invite friends.

Rubicon Grove Ministry

The Church currently provides a Thursday service once a month at Rubicon Grove as part of an ecumenical church roster.

There is a good relationship with residents and staff at Rubicon Grove.

There is a 15 year lease (commenced in January 2019 with OneCare Limited) of the community room and a store room at Rubicon Grove Aged Care facility for church services and other activities. Due to Covid restrictions use of these facilities has been limited since 2020.

Prior to 2019, the church was at St. Peter's (built in 1958) in Rice Street, Port Sorell. This church complex was considered inadequate for anticipated future growth and was sold in 2019.

Co-operation with other Churches

Church leaders meet semi-regularly to pray, plan and network. There is a combined website which provides the details and activities of each church. Recently the churches combined to provide free coffee for the teachers and staff at the Port Sorell Primary School. The churches are currently planning a letterbox distribution of a combined churches flyer.

Mainly Music

Mainly Music, held for seven years at Port Sorell, is currently in recess mainly due to Covid restrictions. Connections made with the community were significant and could be built on for future outreach.

Opportunities to be developed at Port Sorell over the next five years

- To further develop the mission and growth of the church in the Port Sorell area.
- To build on establishing the church at the newly upgraded Banksia Centre.
- To intentionally further develop the ministry to seniors and residents of Rubicon Grove and their families through providing monthly services, visiting and social events.

- To develop outreach to new residents moving into the area especially in the developing housing estates and planned Independent Living Units at Rubicon Grove. Planned letterboxing and neighbourhood morning teas are examples of outreach.
- To continue to be a welcoming church for people of all ages, developing and fostering engagement and building relationships with the community.
- To develop a permanent premises with a view to a shop front for church presence and activities. This could provide opportunity for discussions, counselling, broader community engagement (including coffee, assistance to people in need etc), meetings, office and library. A permanent building with appropriate signage would lift the profile of the church in Port Sorell.
- To continue the current Growth Group and further develop more small fellowship/support groups. Regular one-to-one Bible reading takes place.
- To continue and build on cooperation with the other Christian churches in the Port Sorell area.
- To reinstate more social activities to foster fellowship and to offer opportunities to invite friends and others to join in. These activities were severely curtailed because of Covid restrictions.



The impact of Covid and its restrictions along with Diocesan Redress implications and a parish boundary review have combined to severely affect Bridge of Hope Port Sorell over the last 5 years. The season of ministry and outreach based at Rubicon Grove was severely restricted and the church is now looking forward to the new opportunities as outlined above.

ST LUKE'S LATROBE

Introduction.

A small, faithful congregation of around 17 meet weekly at St Luke's Church Latrobe. Prior to 2021 a small number of people continued to meet for three years in the interim period without a Rector. Since his arrival, new couples and individuals joining has brought strong encouragement and



new opportunities for mission and ministry. It is our desire to continue to be equipped to grow in spiritual maturity, love for each other and our community. We aim to be Kingdom minded, seeking to

bring the love and gospel of Christ to the people we meet, especially families and young people. We want to practically live out the love of Christ in our town, finding ways to serve the community.



Current Ministries and Activities.

Worship

4pm Arvo Church is held each Sunday in the church hall in autumn and winter and in the church building in summer and spring. Before the service there are opportunities for 1:1 prayer, connection with coffee, a snack and chat time. Services teach and equip us to live out the biblical exhortations we hear and we are challenged to share the light and love of Christ with each other, our family and community. Six parishioners are Safe Church Community endorsed and lead prayers and/or bible reading on a roster basis. One also leads services.

Prayer

Sunday prayers include thanks for God's goodness and intercession for our world, persecuted Christians, our CMS Missionaries, Nation, State and local Council and community, our Bishop and Rector and families and arising local issues. We have four people who are rostered to lead us in these prayers. Participation in the fortnightly Parish Zoom prayer time is encouraged and is currently taken up by some members of the congregation.

The Bridge of Hope – Crowded House

Recently commenced, this is "A home Bible study with atmosphere," held fortnightly on a Friday night in a couple's home in Latrobe. A shared meal is followed by a guided Bible study. There are stimulating questions and discussion is encouraged. This gathering is open to people from other churches and non-churched family/friends/neighbours. It's enjoyed a positive start with 12-14 people attending.



The Rector reads the Bible with two local men and this has potential to include more men in time.

Growth Group

Some members of the congregation currently attend the fortnightly Growth Group led by the Rector in his home in Port Sorell. We take a closer look at the biblical text preached on the previous Sunday, pray, and care for one another. This group has grown.

Community Outreach

A Friendship Meal Gathering commenced mid-2022, conducted instead of the regular service on the fifth Sunday of the month, seeks to provide a friendly opening into our church family for unchurched and de-churched locals, while emboldening church members to actively invite others. The afternoon begins with a shared light meal and is followed by an interactive discussion around a bible verse or theological topic. The atmosphere is casual and welcoming and everyone is given the opportunity for comment or questions.



St Luke's has enjoyed good relationships with the Latrobe Primary and High school chaplain in the past. A new chaplain has recently been appointed and is regularly prayed for in our Sunday services. We look forward to strengthening this relationship with him and also with the hospital chaplain. We would like to explore opportunities to support the schools with mentoring of students and Breakfast Clubs.



Collaboration with Other Local Churches.

The four churches in Latrobe were fully supportive of the Rector's initiative to promote the churches by developing a combined churches' flyer and distributing it strategically to the new subdivisions in Latrobe.

The Anglican, Baptist, and Independent Presbyterian Churches happily promote each other's special events and initiatives.

The local Independent Presbyterian Church Youth Group meet on Friday evenings (all ages welcomed). This is open to all churches and has members from another local church. The small group commit to praying for the region on the first Friday of each month. St Luke's has one representative who attends. St Luke's has been given the opportunity to host the prayer meeting.

A combined churches' barbeque was held in the main picnic area of Bell's Parade last December. It was a well-attended event.

St Luke's was listed for sale under Redress (See Section 7). Much of 2021 was taken up with negotiating to retain the property and raise the required redress amount.

Challenges to be faced and Opportunities to be Developed



St Luke's desires to raise its profile in the community. We are eager to engage effectively with the local community, meeting people at their point of need, and seeking also to point them to Jesus.

We recognise the tremendous potential our property holds for meaningful engagement with and service of the community – the church building, hall, and grounds – and we are keen to leverage further this potential.

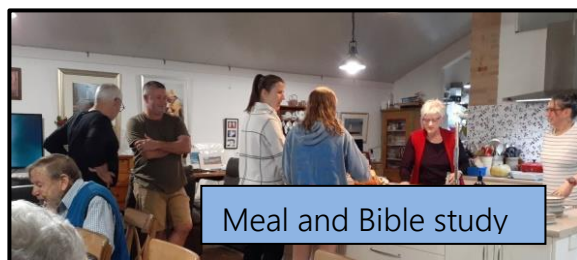
With four well-subscribed local schools in the area, there is much potential to work with the school chaplains to serve and support the school communities and foster connections with school families and staff. It is conceivable that our hall and grounds be used to run children's and families-based programs such as mainly music and a playgroup.

The buildings, whilst in solid state of repair, need some tidy up and maintenance. We have made a good start with creating a welcoming, comfortable space in both the church building and hall for informal gathering, coffee and conversation. Improving the optics and atmosphere inside each space is a work in progress. Both the grounds and the property's central location lend themselves to a garden development and beautification for future outdoor community events such as garden parties, meet and greet the neighbours and food-related events. Co-funded small Council grants for community projects are available to be pursued.

A well-attended community market is held on Sunday mornings in Latrobe and this may be an opportunity for natural community engagement if the church was to provide a presence with a stall.

Going forward, the challenge of effectively and inexpensively heating the church building needs to be met.

Our congregation is made up of older saints and spiritually mature believers with much ministry experience and enthusiasm to see God's Kingdom extended for God's glory, for the temporal and eternal good of individuals, and for the flourishing of the community.



ST GEORGE'S NEWGROUND

St George's at New Ground is the only remaining country church in the Parish. It is in the centre of the rich and productive farming community in the Latrobe Municipality. St. George's has been central to the life of the community throughout its existence, helping to bind the community together. The church has been essential to the spiritual welfare of the community; a source of strength and comfort in difficult times and a place for Thanksgiving and celebration in good times.



Historically it is (we believe) the oldest continuous site of Anglican worship on the North West of Tasmania. There has been a church on the site since the 1850's.

Demographically the district is undergoing some significant changes. Many of the well-known families are disappearing from the district as their properties pass to new owners. Often these properties are being consolidated into larger land holdings, which in turn means fewer farming families in the area. It is of deep concern that there is a loss of the sense of community, which can be very isolating for the remaining families. On the other hand, there are a significant number of people moving to country areas to take up small residential blocks. It is important that those farming and those moving here for a new lifestyle are part of the outreach of the church. They too are in need of the knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus.

Currently there is one service per month as well as Christmas and Easter services making a total of 14 services per year. Monthly services alternate between Morning Prayer and communion, assisted by a committed core team of service leaders, readers and pray-ers. In recent years there has been a bring and share lunch after each service and now morning tea beforehand as well. This has been great for fellowship. There has always been a sense of fellowship with other centres in the Parish with members attending services in other centres when there isn't one at New Ground.



Under the leadership of Reverend David there is an ongoing plan to raise the profile of the church and establish it as a community hub. Road signs have recently been installed at both ends of Hermitage Lane after a successful application was made to the Latrobe council. There is a plan to have a sign with Church service dates and times placed at



the north end of the Hermitage Lane. The current installation of a toilet closer to the church is an

important step forward as it will allow St George's and the Sunday School Hall to be used for community events and by local groups.

5. THE NEW RECTOR

We are looking to God to provide us with a leader with broad life and ministry experience who loves God and His Word, their family and God's family; a leader who is gospel-centred and mission-minded, who will model discipleship and encourage ours, help us see the possibilities for mission and ministry, and equip and enable us for our mission and ministry. We are looking for a Minister who will connect well with families and the wider community and help us reach them with Jesus' love and gospel.

In the Parish's next season, the new Minister will be based in Latrobe and give their main focus to engaging with families in Latrobe as the main employment and commercial hub of the Parish.

We envisage the Minister developing the Afternoon Congregation at St Luke's, with the help of a committed core of parishioners.

The Minister will spend 50% of their time on new initiatives.

The Minister will lead a weekly service in Port Sorell and a team to develop the ministry of the Port Sorell congregation. This ministry will include pastoral care, senior's ministry, and outreach to the local community across all age groups.

The Minister will support a monthly congregation at Newground in the care of local leadership.

The Minister will also encourage and support training of small group and Bible Study leaders across the Parish.

6. OUR PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council currently consists of six people with three from Port Sorell Church, one from Newground Church, and two from Latrobe Church. The Council meets bi-monthly. Our current Rector has re-set the focus of the meetings to major on Mission and Ministry, while also giving attention to the necessary governance, finance and property issues. The Parish fully complies with the Diocese's Safe Church Communities policy and regulations and recognises its importance.

7. REDRESS

The Parish was affected by the Diocesan Redress Scheme. The Parish had four churches with Northdown St James Church being sold off to a local community group. The local community group found the funding for this to happen. The congregation at St Georges Church Newground raised the required funds to allow the retention of this church. The Parish Council went guarantor whilst the funds were raised. The Parish was able to find funding to have St Luke's Church Latrobe retained. This funding was partly from parish trustee investments and amounts pledged by the community. As Port Sorell did not have a church building it was exempted from finding any redress amount. There are now two church buildings belonging to the parish, these being St George's Newground and St Luke's Latrobe.

8. CONDITIONS

The Parish will provide the minimum stipend and allowances as currently prescribed by the Anglican Diocese of Tasmania. This will also include an accommodation benefit as prescribed in the Clergy Housing Policy.

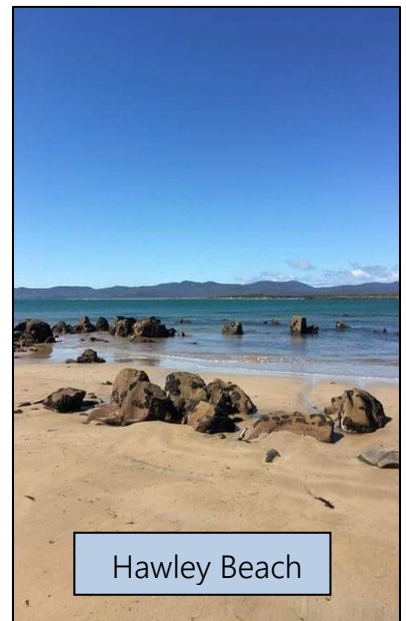
9. COMMUNITY OVERVIEWS

A COMMUNITY OVERVIEW OF THE PORT SORELL AREA

(Including Port Sorell, Shearwater, Hawley Beach and Squeaking Point areas)

In recent years Port Sorell has changed from a small holiday/fishing village to a most attractive residential area for young couples, families, and retirees from nearby areas and interstate.

The greater Port Sorell area encompasses Hawley Beach, the newer residential area of Shearwater, the original Port Sorell holiday village and the rural residential settlement of Squeaking Point. The population of this area is 5,199 and is included in the Municipality of Latrobe with a total population of 12,420. (2021 Census) The area continues to grow with new subdivisions being developed.



As a result of this rapid growth, new services and facilities are gradually being developed. These include a medical practice, childcare centre, supermarkets and other businesses. Rubicon Grove is an 80 bed Aged Care facility operated by One Care Limited and opened in 2007. A new primary school was opened in 2013 with approximately 350 students. Andrews Creek Primary School at Wesley Vale also attracts students from the area.

The Banksia Centre, currently under re-development by the Latrobe Council, will include a new enlarged Performing Arts Auditorium and a large children's playground, bike tracks, and new facilities and dormitories for the live-in camp site.

The existing centre has a full-size basketball stadium where a variety of sporting rosters are held including table tennis, volleyball and indoor cricket.

There are also community meeting rooms which is where the Church has been meeting for the past 6 months.

Recreational and sporting facilities are well catered for with walking tracks, a Park Run, an active Surf club, as well as Golf, Bowls, Tennis, and Cricket and Joeys football clubs. The popular beachside Caravan Park attracts campers during the holiday periods and interstate visitors.

The area's greatest natural asset is its beautiful beaches of the Rubicon River estuary which provide safe swimming and water sports and activities. The Narawntapu National Park is a half hour journey by road or 5 minutes by boat.

Commerce and community organisations Community clubs such as Lions, Probus, Senior Citizens, Men's Shed, Playgroup, History group and Rubicon Enhancement Volunteers provide opportunities to meet new people and become part of the community. U3A is a Seniors organisation with around 500 members which conducts many courses on a regular basis mainly at The Banksia Meeting rooms. There is also a volunteer Fire Brigade and a First Response Team.

There are 4 Christian Churches in Shearwater-Port Sorell and one at Wesley Vale which all conduct weekly services. These churches are Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, Life Christian Church, Saint Josephs Catholic Church and Wesley Vale Community Church.

Port Sorell has two commercial centres – one at the Woolworths complex including bakery, Post Office and pharmacy. The other centre is Shearwater village near the Resort which has attracted smaller businesses and a variety of coffee shops and eating places. There are also take away and coffee shops throughout the area and socialising over coffee is a regular and important aspect of many community groups.

A daily bus service runs between Devonport, Latrobe, Hawley, Shearwater and Port Sorell.

There is a growing sense of community with newcomers and visitors to the area generally being warmly welcomed.

A COMMUNITY OVERVIEW OF LATROBE

The Latrobe municipality has one of the fastest growing populations in Tasmania. New subdivisions are springing up everywhere. Latrobe is a vibrant, well established historic town and is the main business and shopping centre for the municipality. There are specialty shops, cafes, markets, two hotels, attractive riverside parks and reserves and the Latrobe Council Offices. The Mersey Community Hospital serving the eastern end of the North West coast is located here as well as a Nursing Home, Medical Practice (including physiotherapy), Psychology services, a Dentist and Optometrist.



Schooling options include - Latrobe Primary (K-6) Latrobe High (Years 6-12), a Catholic School (K-6) and a Christian college (K-12): Approximately 1000 students in total. St Patrick's Primary is home of Latrobe Early Learning and Child Care Services providing families with options for care for newborns through to five-year-olds.



Recreational opportunities are plentiful. There are numerous walking trails and Reserves. Warrawee Reserve is part of the Wild Mersey Mountain Bike Trail with 15kms of trails catering for basic, intermediary and advanced bike skills. Latrobe has a heated 25x10m pool. A skate park has recently been developed. Latrobe has a Speedway. There are first-class sporting facilities and numerous sporting and community clubs. The Latrobe Federal Band is the oldest continuous serving brass band in Australia, established in 1872. They have a senior's band, a junior band and a learner's band.

Picturesque Bell's Parade is a popular picnic area with two large undercover bbq areas which can be booked for family or community events. A kid's playground, gazebo and toilet block are available. A Fun Run heads out from this area each Saturday morning. Canoeing and swimming are enjoyed in the summer months in the Mersey River. A bike track links Bell's Parade with the nearby city of Devonport.



Latrobe is conveniently located only seven kilometres from Devonport, the Devonport Airport and ferry terminal. Launceston is one hours' drive away and Cradle Mountain is one and a half hours' drive away.

Latrobe is a well-established community, welcoming and friendly to new residents.

We can be found on Facebook at Bridge of Hope Anglican.

